

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USUN 472

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: CHANGE OF SPANISH POSITION

DENIED

REF: RABAT'S 1992

1. APRIL 28 ISSUE OF SPANISH NEWS MAGAZINE CAMBIO 16, ATTRIBUTING EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLOSE TO ICJ, REPORTED SECRET CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN, MOROCCO AND MAURETANIA FOR SETTLEMENT OF SAHARA PROBLEM. SIMILAR SPECULATIVE REPORTS APPEARED IN SPANISH PRESS AND, WE UNDERSTAND, IN LE MONDE. DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS CASSINELLO TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT MFA OFFICIALS SUSPECT REPORTS OF SECRET SPANISH-MOROCCAN-MAURETANIAN NEGOTIATIONS WERE BASED ON PRESS LEAKS FROM PRESIDENCY OFFICIALS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME OF WHOM HAVE NEVER FULLY ACCEPTED FON MINISTER'S

CONTINUING FIRM OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH MOROCCO. HE ALSO NOTED THAT REPORTS OF SECRET TALKS MAY HAVE BEEN STIMULATED BY VISIT TO MADRID SOME TWO WEEKS AGO OF FAIRLY HIGH-LEVEL ISTIQUAL DELEGATION, WHICH HE HAD HEARD INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF KING'S ROYAL HOUSEHOLD. HE UNDERSTOOD BOUCETTA WAS IN DELEGATION AND THAT THE DELEGATES HAD HAD CONTACTS WITH SOME ONE IN PRESIDENCIA, THOUGH NO ONE IN MFA WAS INVOLVED WITH THEM. CASSINELLO STRESSED THAT DESPITE SNIPING BY PRESIDENCIAL OFFICIALS, FON MINISTER CORTINA'S FORMULA FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARA REMAINS GOS POLICY AND HAS FULL BACKING OF FRANCO.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, PERSONAL AIDE TO FONMIN ARIAS NAVARRO CONFIRMED TO POL COUNSELOR THAT MOROCCAN DELEGATION HAD VISITED MADRID BUT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY CONTACTS THEY MAY HAVE HAD IN PRESIDENCIAL. (MOROCCAN EMBOFF ALSO CONFIRMED BOUCETTA VISIT BUT DENIED HE HAD HAD CONTACTS WITH GOS.) HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SPLIT ON SAHARAN POLICY IN PAST BETWEEN MFA ON ONE HAND AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SAHARAN AFFAIRS AND KEY MILITARY OFFICIALS ON OTHER. LATTER GROUP HAD ARGUES THAT NO LASTING SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE WITHOUT TAKING MOROCCAN INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT IN SOME WAY. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT MOST OF THIS GROUP HAD SHIFTED TO DECONOLINIZATION LINE FOLLOWING HASSAN'S CHALLENGE TO SPANISH CONTROL OF CEUTA AND MELILLA, LEAVING ONLY ISOLATED ELEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR PRO-MOROCCAN LINE IN PRESIDENCIA.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS RESPECT THAT EDUARDO BLANCO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SAHARA, TOLD EMBOFF ON FEB 24 (MADRID 1346) THAT MOROCCAN INTERESTS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SOMEWAY. ON MAY 7 BLANCO AGAIN STATED PRIVATELY THAT WITHOUT "SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH MOROCCO" SITUATION WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR SPAIN.

4. AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT SPANISH WERE ENCOURAGED BY LINE THAT ALGERIA NOW TALKING IN SUPPORT OF SPAIN'S SELF-DETERMINATION PLAN. HE SAID SPANISH HAD INFORMATION THAT ALGERIAN AND MOROCCANS HAD STRONG DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING WHEN ALGERIANS INSISTED ON SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARANS. SPAIN ALSO ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS ALGERIANS HAD SENT MEMO TO ICJ SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION AND REQUESTING INTERESTED PARTY STATUS. HE SAID THAT ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HERE (KHELLADI) RECENTLY HAD PRIVATE LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER ARIAS. FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE SUBSEQUENTLY, HE UNDERSTOOD ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD ARIAS THAT ALGERIA FULLY BEHIND SPAIN IN

ITS INTENTIONS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN SAHARA, BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SPAIN WOULD MOVE FASTER. ARIAS HAD REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT SPAIN OF COURSE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FASTER BUT IS NOW LIMITED TO THE PACE OF THE ICJ AND UN.

5. IN INTERVIEW CARRIED IN MADRID DAILY ABC MAY 3, FONMIN CORTINA IMPLICITLY CONFIRMED THAT SPAIN'S POLICY ON SAHARA REMAINS UNCHANGED. HE STATED HE HAD INFORMED IRANIANS DURING PRINCE'S STATE VISIT TO TEHRAN (MADRID 2933) OF SPAIN'S REASONS FOR WANTING SELF-DETERMINATION OF SAHARA, AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE PROCEDURE FOR DECOLONIZING WITHOUT CONFLICTS, WITHOUT WAR AND FRICTIONS." HE ADDED THAT THE IRANIANS "UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY AND ACCEPTED OUR THESES."
STABLER

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